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MONDAY
DECEMBER 20, 1954

Miss Schukraft arrived at 8:30 with chequebooks and reminders from the office.

E. interviewed a chef (once our kitchen boy at the Embassy, and lately with Couve de Murville at Cairo). He accepted her offer of $225 per month, after saying he heard French chefs in New York got as high as $1,000!

Distressing to say goodbye to the domestics, some of whom cried, which I was tempted to do, and E. did.

There was quite a gathering at the airport to see us off. How charming and sweet those people were to come at the expense of their own pleasure and time. Michel wept, and dear Robert wiped away tears at his last sight of Brucie.

There were only half a dozen passengers other than ourselves (E., Micheline, 3 children and 2 dogs) owing, I suppose, to this sudden change in plans.

We were off at 11:45 to the Azores.

I was sorry to miss the lunch a group of American reporters had arranged for today. I should have liked to have a last frank talk with these fellows, for whom I have deep respect and affection. I have always told them whatever I, with propriety, could, and I cannot recollect any betrayal of confidence, nor, I trust, can they charge me with any breach of their private reports to me. Some day I should like certain of them -- although they will not probably then be interested in battles of long ago -- to know the real story of Brussels. I have never defended myself against accusations of using undue American pressure there. But it was touch and go as to whether Mendès, with the U. S. position made absolutely clear, and with the united, spontaneous, and uncoordinated opposition of the other subscribing nations to his cynical protocol, might have yielded in favor of what was so evidently in the best interests of France. I have no bitterness whatever toward him for the way he

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maneuvered to try to fix the blame for the intransigeance of his foreign colleagues on my mission. That is fair political game. But I went there reluctantly, charged to correct an impression conveyed by him of the Dulles-André Mayer conversation in Washington that I thought was being mistakenly interpreted in his disfavor, as well as in contradiction to the real U. S. position.

In retrospect, I am glad I was at Brussels during the concluding sessions of the Foreign Ministers' meeting. The pro-Europeans went down with the flag of a great cause flying. Mendès, a clever but parochial man, would not, like Bidault before him, seize a great opportunity of historical importance, such as occurs seldom in the life of nations. The other realized how unique was the occasion -- he was not blinded by the brilliance of the light, but shaded himself against it. He would have been singularly well fitted to bring this cause to fruition had he so desired. This is, I continue to think, the greatest lost opportunity in modern Western European history, and Great Britain must bear part of the blame. What had been dreamed of for centuries as a summum bonum was, after arduous struggles, within the bounds of attainment. From a selfish standpoint, France had the most to gain by it. But it was France which rejected it although its innovator, and although the conception, of which the EDC formed only a part, was the chief -- perhaps the only -- imaginative and constructive contribution made by France in the war and post-war periods to the solution of world problems. The task now is ~~to try to recapture something of the~~ mood that might have led to a different future for divided Western Europe.

We had a smooth six-hour flight to the Azores, ~~then another eleven hours~~ to New York. The children and dogs were quiet and happy. ~~Between Boston and~~ New York the weather became rough. The stewardess injudiciously gave Nicky

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some orange juice around ten p.m., at which his stomach revolted, with results distressing for his neighbors. Micheline also yielded tc air sickness, and became almost desperately ill and weak.

We went to the Waldorf-Astoria for the night. Micheline fainted at the entrance. Nicky dropped his kitbag in the lobby, and the oddest assortment of toys rolled over the floor. Our reservation notice had miscarried, but finally we collected the three bedraggled children, in their dirty siren suits, and got to bed. The difference in hours made sleep difficult. In my case it was impossible because I shared a room with David, whose thoughts ran steadily to big game hunting. As fast as I disposed of one question, such as, "Daddy, could a boy of seven kill a lion with a bow and arrow if he (the boy) was an Indian?", I would be faced with such another as, "Daddy, if a buffalo and a rhinoceros fought, which would win?" At six-thirty, he and I went downstairs and had breakfast.

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